

2-Child Rule Loses, 6-1

Phoenix — (RNS) — Residents of Phoenix and Tucson, by a 6 to 1 margin, oppose any law that would prohibit families from having more than two children, according to a poll just released here.

The poll was conducted by Behavior Research Center, Inc. a Phoenix marketing research firm. It interviewed 947 "urban" residents.

In January, the Arizona State Health Board approved a policy of encouraging married couples to limit themselves to two children. This statement brought strong objections from Roman Catholic Bishop Edward A. McCarthy of Phoenix.

Only 14 per cent favored a law limiting families to two children, while 84 per cent opposed it. Two per cent indicated they were undecided.

The use of federal funds for sterilization operations was favored by 54 per cent, 40 per cent opposed the move and 6 per cent were undecided.

Pontiff Sends Apollo Message

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI followed the final stages of the return of Apollo 14 to the earth on television in his private study and later cabled a congratulatory message to President Nixon.

The spacecraft splashed down in the Pacific Ocean on Feb. 9, marking the end of the United States' 24th manned space flight, the sixth mission to the moon, and the third to have landed men who explored the lunar surface some 238,000 miles from earth.

"We extend our congratulations to you and the entire American people, and, in particular, to the three brave astronauts," the Pope told Mr. Nixon.

Earlier the Pope had hailed the Apollo 14 moon landing as showing that man, "king of the earth," is also "prince of the heavens."

Addressing crowds in St. Peter's Square at his customary Sunday noon blessing, the Pope expressed wonder, amazement, and admiration at the feat of the U.S. astronauts.

In the light of such an achievement, the pontiff said, "Let us honor man, the king of the earth, who is now the prince of the heavens."

"Let us honor man, who reflects the face of God, and, in his dominion over matter, obeys the Biblical injunction, 'Fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion...'"

Mrs. Melville Out of Prison

New York — (RNS) — Mrs. Marjorie Melville, the second of the "Catonsville Nine" to be released from prison, intends to continue her efforts on behalf of Latin American peasants, begun during 13 years as a Maryknoll missionary in Guatemala.

While in Guatemala, Mrs. Melville and her husband Thomas, a former Maryknoll priest, were reportedly linked with anti-government guerrillas and subsequently ordered out of the country.

The former Maryknoll nun served a prison term for destroying Selective Service records at Catonsville, Md., in May of 1968, hoping that her arrest and trial would give her a chance to "shake up" the American people.

COURIER / WORLD

Christians Charge Persecution

Singapore — (RNS) — An official Roman Catholic publication issued here and in Malaysia has called the attention of Christians of both nations to what it called "persecution" of Catholic missionaries in Sabah, formerly North Borneo.

The Malaysian Catholic News reported that from March to November, 1970, 15 priests and 11 nuns were dismissed from Sabah without explanation. An 82-year-old Carmelite nun who had lived in Sabah for 40 years, it added, was declared an "undesirable immigrant" to the predominately Muslim state.

The publication noted that other Christians are given "no more humane treatment" than Catholics. It charged that democracy and freedom in many areas are being violated.

Pope Urges Peace on NATO Unit

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI expressed hope here that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) forces would always seek not merely to "defend," but also to "engender" peace.

At an audience with officers and students of the NATO Defense College, the Pope prayed that they would use their "newly acquired knowledge" to "consolidate peace."

"May your actions," he emphasized, "not merely defend, but also engender peace," and added, "May this peace not be reserved for a privileged few, but become the common possession of the whole human family."

Spanish Seminaries Note Decline

Madrid — (RNS) — A "catastrophic decline" in vocations to the Roman Catholic priesthood in Spain was reported in Arriba, a government daily newspaper.

The Falange organ said that between 1966 and 1969 the number of seminarians in Spain's major seminaries dwindled from 7,689 to 2,245.

"At this rapid rate," the newspaper said, "Spain's seminaries can become empty."

American Heads Vatican Bank

Vatican City — (RNS) — Bishop Paul C. Marcinkus of Cicero, Ill. is the first American to head the Vatican's "bank," the Institute for Religious Works. He had been secretary of the Institute, which was founded by Pope Pius XII in 1942 for the "custody and administration of all capital destined for works of religion."

Bishop Marcinkus has served the Vatican secretariat of state in Bolivia and Canada.



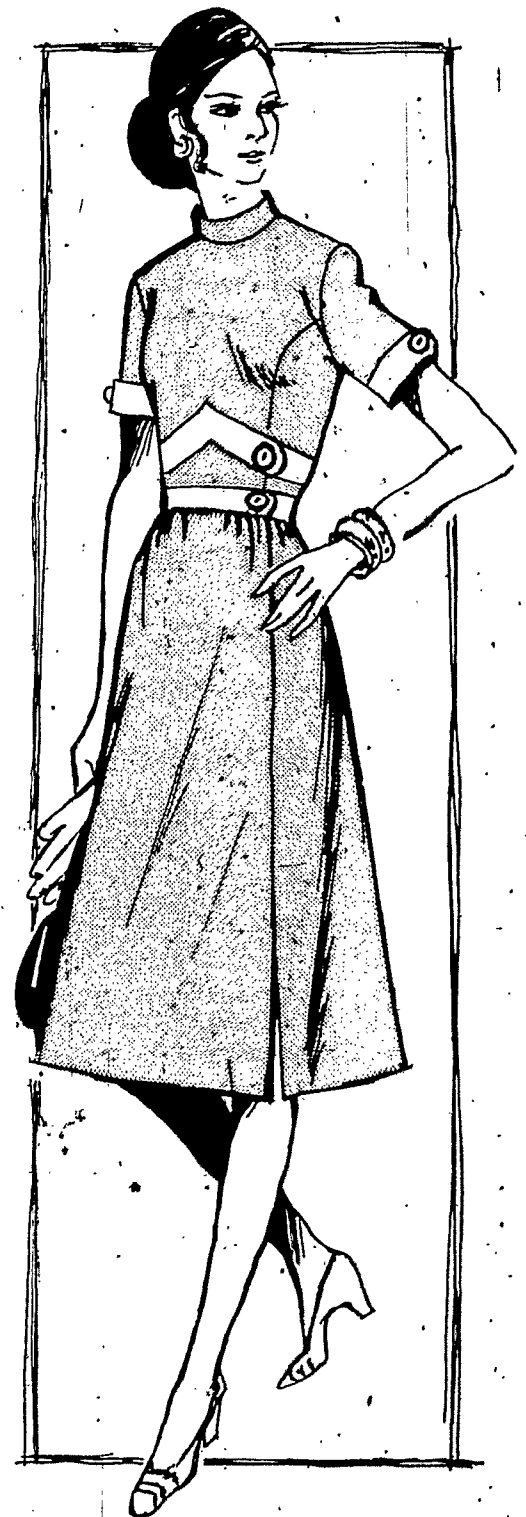
The Vatican has issued a series of postage stamps to support the U.N. Fight Against Racism and Racial Discrimination. The stamp at left shows a dark-skinned angel; the one at right shows a crucifix surrounded by flying doves. Designed by Corrado Ruffini, the stamps bear the inscription, "Every Man Is My Brother."

Bishops Urge Divorce Law Repeal

Rome — (RNS) — Italy's bishops have declared that citizens have the right and duty to use all legitimate means to bring about repeal of the two-month-old divorce law.

Hard-fought in Parliament for five years, the divorce legislation went into effect Dec. 18. The Vatican has claimed that the divorce law violates the 1929 Vatican-Italian Concordat.

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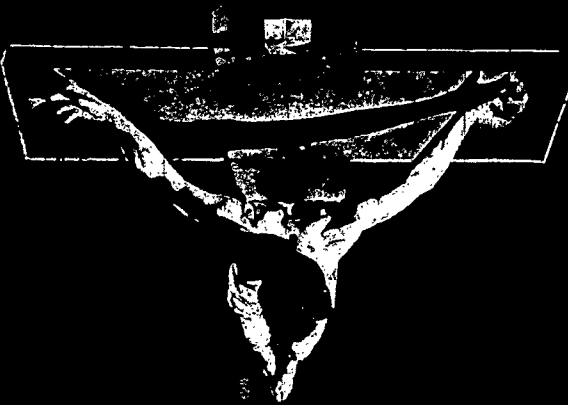


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